

Custody Assistant Pilot Program

In November 2008, a six-month Custody Assistant Pilot Program was finalized. During the program ten Custody Assistants were assigned to five of the County's busiest court lock-up facilities (Clara Shortridge Foltz, Compton, Long Beach, Airport, and Michael D. Antonovich Antelope Valley Courts).



In November 2008, eight additional Custody Assistants were added to the program and assigned to additional lock-up facilities. The Custody Assistants will continue to assist court lock-up personnel in

the areas of city and county releases, DNA collection, booking of court remands, Live Scan processing, and other general lock-up duties.

In September 2008, the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Court Services Division, the Glendale Police Department, and the Superior Court of the County of Los Angeles Glendale Courthouse began a video arraignment pilot program.

This program expedites arraignments for misdemeanor and felony defendants via a video format that allowed the defendant to be arraigned on a criminal charge without leaving the Glendale Police Department. Through the use of video conferencing equipment located in the courtroom and jail, a defendant was interviewed by their attorney. The case was heard in a designated



courtroom, all without transporting the defendant to the courthouse.

To date, the video arraignment pilot program has improved officer safety, dramatically reduced the risk of escape and inmate incidents, and has vastly improved the overcrowding situation in the Glendale Courthouse lock-up.

The video arraignment pilot project has the potential to be implemented county-wide. The vision of all involved criminal justice agencies is to install and implement these systems in our

city and county custody facilities in order to electronically connect to the entire Los Angeles County Court system. In doing so, not only would the valuable time of Court and Sheriff's Department staff be used more efficiently and safely, but the cost of transporting these inmates to Los Angeles County courthouses would also be substantially reduced.

For over twenty years, Sheriff Baca's "999 for Kids" program has been helping special needs children, who have been the victims of emotional and physical abuse. Working through the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), "999 for Kids" raises funds through the generosity of our Department members and outside donors, to provide a variety of items that enhance the quality of life of these special children.

Although many of our fundraisers consist of barbecues, bake sales, and teddy bear sales, "999 for Kids" also receives larger donations from an annual dinner dance, 5K/10K run and corporate donations. Each year, "999 for Kids" hosts a Christmas party at the Sheriff's Academy for all children in DCFS' Medical Placement Unit, their care givers, and families. The children receive gifts, enjoy a lunch and entertainment, and are able to visit with Santa Claus. Over a thousand children attend each year.

